
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

November 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Emerald Ash Borer: Planning for the inevitable

Since arrival of the emerald ash borer in Wisconsin seems inevitable, plans are being made to proactively deal with it.

The disheartening news from Michigan regarding the movement of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into the UP and other outlying areas in Lower Michigan only serves to support the widely held opinion that EAB is bound for Wisconsin. Many activities related to detection of EAB and planning for its arrival are ongoing. A strategic plan and response plan are in the final stages and plans for an eradication effort are developing.

Two workshops or “table top” exercises have been held with a small group of partners that may be heavily impacted by the arrival of EAB. The purpose of these exercises is to talk through actions and processes that must take place once the insect is found. At least one additional exercise is planned for next year.

Destruction or utilization of infested ash material has been one of the biggest challenges Michigan has faced. Terry Mace, Forest Utilization Specialist with the WDNR Division of Forestry, has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to host a series of meetings with partners who may be able to help not only destroy infested material but create a wood product from it. The first meeting with pulp and paper representatives highlighted the challenges of utilizing trees from urban areas and abiding by anticipated quarantine restrictions. The second meeting will be with representatives from the sawmill industry.

2004 EAB survey results are available on the DNR forest health protection EAB web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.html>. Look for updates soon with the results of 2005 surveys.

If you have questions about Wisconsin’s EAB planning efforts, contact [Jane Cummings Carlson](#), 608-275-3273. For more information on EAB nationwide, go to: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

Polk County earns forest productivity award

For the second year in a row, Polk County Forest has had the highest production of forest products among the 29 county forests in Wisconsin. The award is based on the closed out timber sales of the last two fiscal years and compares those volumes with the commercially harvestable acreage on each county forest.

The Division of Forestry congratulates the Polk County forestry program and administrator Paul Pedersen for receiving the 2005 Milt Reinke Forestry Productivity Award, presented annually to the county forest that produces the most forest products (per commercially productive acre) over a 2 year time frame. Milt was instrumental in promoting the sustainable management of the county forests and the production of forest products that goes along with it. This is the second year in a row the award went to Polk County. They produced .67 cord equivalents per acres on their commercial forest acres narrowly edging out Rusk County that produced .66 cords. Langlade County was third with .62 cord equivalents per acre. To learn more about the county forest program, visit <http://www.wisconsincountyforests.com/>

Rules being developed for logger grant program

A new program, established by the state budget bill this summer, would provide scholarships to loggers applying to the Wisconsin Master Logger program administered by the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association.

2005 Wis. Act 25 (05-07 budget) directed the DNR to promulgate rules that establish criteria for a scholarship grant program to assist individuals who are seeking master logger certification. The Master Logger Certification program is a performance-based program copyrighted and sanctioned by the American Loggers Council that establishes national standards of performance for the logging profession. Wisconsin's Master Logger program has been in existence for approximately two years. It is currently being administered through the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association (WPLA) and Act 25 continues to provide for that arrangement.

Emergency rules for this new grant program will be in effect shortly and there will be public hearings on both the emergency rule and development of the permanent rule in December (watch the [Forestry Administrative Rules Webpage](#) for the specific date). The proposed rules would establish the purpose, applicability, definitions, application and grant procedure, general provisions, accountability and audit procedures, and termination provisions of the program. Scholarships would pay up to 50% of the cost towards an individual's application fee. It would offset part of the program cost of processing applicants for Wisconsin Master Logger consideration. The funding would be applied as a credit towards an individual's application fee which includes costs incurred during the audit process, training related to the audit process, information and outreach to prospective applicants and costs directly related to the program.

Advisory committee focuses on Forestry BMPs

The BMP advisory committee will review proposals for monitoring water quality on federal, industrial and nonindustrial forests at their February 7 meeting.

The Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) Advisory Committee met in Stevens Point on November 1. The advisory committee is comprised of representatives from twenty organizations that are committed to helping conserve the social, economic and ecologic values of Wisconsin's forest and water resources.

The committee reviewed Forestry BMP program accomplishments since 1995. These include providing BMP information to over 5,200 training participants, evaluating the application and effectiveness of Forestry BMPs at nearly 500 timber sales, and printing three editions of the Forestry BMP manual. They also discussed the results of the 2003 – 2004 monitoring cycle on state and county forests. At its next meeting on February 7, the committee will review proposals for completing BMP monitoring on federal forests, industrial forests and non-industrial forests.

The advisory committee was created in 2001 to provide the DNR's Division of Forestry with a mechanism to gain leadership, advice and guidance from its partners on the Forestry BMP program. The committee works with DNR to strategically position Wisconsin as a leader in this voluntary approach to address federal forest water quality concerns. For more information on the committee, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/advisory/> or contact Carmen Wagner, Forest Hydrologist at (608) 266-1667.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707
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